

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Claim 1 (previously presented): A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising an end cap that is attached to a glass envelope with a sealing composition that comprises a silver compound, a gold compound or combination thereof.

Claim 2 (currently amended): ~~The~~ A low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp of claim 1 comprising an end cap that is attached to a glass envelope with a sealing composition that comprises a silver compound, a gold compound or combination thereof, wherein said silver compound comprises silver carbonate, silver halide, silver oxide, silver sulfide, silver acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 3 (previously presented): A fluorescent lamp comprising an amount of silver carbonate in a range from about 0.1 milligram to about 30 milligrams.

Claim 4 (previously presented): A fluorescent lamp comprising an amount of gold compound in a range from about 0.1 milligram to about 30 milligrams, said gold compound comprising gold carbonate, gold halide, gold oxide, gold sulfide, gold acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously amended): The low-vapor pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein said silver compound, gold compound, or combination thereof is present in a range between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The low-pressure mercury vapor discharge lamp of claim 1, wherein elemental mercury in said lamp is substantially incapable of interacting with ferric and cupric compounds present in said lamp to produce soluble mercury in a presence of said silver compound, gold compound, or combination thereof.

Claim 8 (original): A mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising an amount of silver carbonate in a range between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp to substantially prevent the interaction of elemental mercury with ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.

Claim 9 (previously presented): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in a mercury vapor discharge lamp, said method comprising providing a sealing composition between an end cap and a glass envelope of said lamp, said sealing composition comprising a silver compound, gold compound, or combination thereof.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein said silver compound comprises silver carbonate, silver chloride, silver oxide, silver sulfide, silver acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 11 (previously presented): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in a mercury vapor discharge lamp, said method comprising providing, in a structure of said lamp, between about 0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams of silver carbonate.

Claim 12 (previously presented): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in a mercury vapor discharge lamp, said method comprising providing, in a structure of said lamp, between about 0.1 milligram and about 30 milligrams of a gold compound that comprises gold carbonate, gold halide, gold oxide, gold sulfide, gold acetate, or combinations thereof.

Claim 13 (canceled)

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein said silver compound, gold compound, or combination thereof is present in a range from about 10 milligrams to about 30 milligrams per lamp.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein elemental mercury in said lamp is substantially incapable of interacting with ferric and cupric compounds present in

said lamp to produce soluble mercury in a presence of said silver compound, gold compound, or combination thereof.

Claim 16 (original): A method for preventing the formation of leachable mercury compounds in mercury vapor discharge lamps comprising providing an amount of silver carbonate in a range between about 10 milligrams and about 30 milligrams per lamp to substantially prevent the formation of ferric and cupric compounds which oxidize elemental mercury to a soluble form.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a material selected from the group consisting of silver compounds, gold compounds, and combinations thereof; said material being encapsulated and disposed at a location selected from the group consisting of a base of said lamp and an interior of said lamp.

Claim 18 (currently amended): A mercury vapor discharge lamp comprising a material selected from the group consisting of silver compounds, gold compounds, and combinations thereof; said material being disposed at a base of said mercury vapor discharge lamp.